

MEDIA ADVISORY

State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference

Hamilton- October 16, 2000 - The health of the Great Lakes affects the lives of over 33 million inhabitants and countless fish and wildlife species in the Great Lakes basin. Using consistent scientific ecosystem indicators the health of the Great Lakes will be assessed and preliminary findings will be announced at the fourth biennial *State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC)*.

The *Canada -U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* signed by both Canada and the United States, commits governments to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. Reporting on progress is part of the Agreement.

Paddy Torsney, Member of Parliament for Burlington, representing David Anderson, Minister of the Environment, will be opening the conference, hosted by Environment Canada and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Five hundred scientists and decision makers from government, industry, Tribes (United States), First Nations, academia and environmental groups from Canada and the United States are expected to attend.

Date: **October 17 -19, 2000**

Time/Location: **Hamilton Convention Centre**
Hamilton, Ontario
Paddy Torsney will deliver her remarks at 830 a.m on October 17

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